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FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOSCO 058//

TO GENERAL SCOWCROFT

UNCLAS DELIVER AT OPENING OF BUSINESS WH02305

TOSCO 058

DECEMBER 3, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: MORNING NEWS SUMMARY

THE WASHINGTON POST

LOU CANNON WRITES THAT PRESIDENT FORD AND CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY CHAIRMAN MAO TSE-TUNG MET FOR AN HOUR AND 50 MINUTES YESTERDAY IN TALKS DESCRIBED BY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT AS "EARNEST AND SIGNIFICANT DISCUSSIONS...ON WIDE-RANGING ISSUES IN A FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE." WHILE WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS AGREED PUBLICLY WITH THIS DESCRIPTION OF THE SESSION, THEY SAID PRIVATELY THAT NEITHER THE FORD-MAO MEETING NOR AN EARLIER TWO-HOUR DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PREMIER TENG HSIANG-PING PRODUCED ANYTHING UNEXPECTED. (A-1)

MARILYN BERGER REPORTS THAT U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE UN DANIEL MOYNIHAN SAID YESTERDAY THAT RECENT SOVIET ACTIONS INDICATE MOSCOW INTENDS "TO COLONIZE AFRICA." AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AFTER HIS SPEECH, MOYNIHAN CALLED HIS REMARKS SOMEWHAT HYPERBOLIC, BUT SAID THAT THE ERA OF COLONIALIZATION IN AFRICA BEGAN THROUGH A PROCESS SIMILAR TO PRESENT SOVIET ACTIVITIES. (A-1)

MURREY HARDER REPORTS THAT HOUSE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN OTIS PIKE SAID YESTERDAY THAT HIS COMMITTEE HAS OBTAINED "SUBSTANTIAL COMPLIANCE" THAT RESOLVES TWO CONTEMPT CITATIONS AIMED AT SECRETARY KISSINGER, BUT THAT HE WILL

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PURSUED A THIRD CHARGE. KISSINGER WAS THE TARGET OF A BROADSIDE OF ADDITIONAL ACCUSATIONS YESTERDAY FROM THE COMMITTEE'S WITNESS, ELMO ZUMWALT. (A-1)

PETER OSNOS REPORTS THAT SOVIET ECONOMIC EXPANSION WAS SUBSTANTIALLY SLOWED BY THIS YEAR'S DISASTROUS GRAIN HARVEST, AND THE EFFECTS WILL BE FELT INTO NEXT YEAR -- WHICH WILL PROBABLY SEE THE LOWEST GROWTH RATES SINCE WORLD WAR II. (A-1)

VARIOUS NEWS DISPATCHES REPORT THAT ISRAELI JETS, DODGING HEAT-SEEKING MISSILES, ATTACKED PALESTINIAN REFUGEE CAMPS AND GUERRILLA BASES TUESDAY IN NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN LEBANON. THERE WERE CONFLICTING CASUALTY REPORTS. LEBANESE POLICE SAID THE RAIDS LEFT 91 DEAD AND 180 WOUNDED BUT THE GUERRILLAS LISTED 59 KILLED AND 140 WOUNDED. (A-1)

GEORGE C. WILSON WRITES THAT THE PENTAGON WILL HAVE TO CLOSE DOWN SOME BASES AND CUT ITS CIVILIAN WORK FORCE TO FIT UNDER THE BUDGET CUELING NOW "CONTEMPLATED" FOR THE NEW FISCAL YEAR, DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WILLIAM CLEMENTS JR. SAID IN AN INTERVIEW YESTERDAY. (A-3)

SARI GILBERT REPORTS THAT, YIELDING TO THE EIGHT OTHER MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY, BRITAIN YESTERDAY DROPPED ITS DEMAND FOR A SEPARATE SEAT AT THE FORTHCOMING NORTH-SOUTH ENERGY CONFERENCE, THUS ENDING A DEADLOCK WHICH HAD THREATENED TO DELAY THE MEETING. (A-10)

BERNARD D. NOSSITER WRITES THAT PRIME MINISTER AZEVEDO IS TRYING TO DECIDE WHETHER TO KEEP COMMUNISTS IN HIS GOVERNMENT OR EXPEL THEM IN THE WAKE OF LAST WEEK'S ABORTIVE LEFTIST MILITARY UPRISING. ACCORDING TO THOSE FAMILIAR WITH HIS THINKING, AZEVEDO LEANS TOWARD THROWING THE COMMUNISTS OUT, HOLDING THEM RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PARATROOPERS' COUP THAT FAILED. BUT THE EXPECTATION IS THAT HE WILL YIELD TO MILITARY AND POLITICAL ADVISERS WHO ARE ARGUING THAT THE COMMUNISTS ARE SAFER INSIDE GOVERNMENT THAN OUT OF IT. (A-12)

DAVID B. OTTAWAY WRITES THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS LOSING OUT TO CHINA IN THE INTRA-COMMUNIST RIVALRY FOR INFLUENCE IN RECENTLY INDEPENDENT MOZAMBIQUE. THIS STANDS IN SHARP CONTRAST TO ANGOLA, WHERE THE SOVIET UNION MAY GAIN CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE AND A FOOTHOLD BECAUSE OF ITS MASSIVE MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE LEFTIST MPLA. (A-13)

AN EDITORIAL STATES THAT THE SECOND VISIT BY AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT TO CHINA IS NEITHER SO MOMENTOUS AS RICHARD NIXON'S TRIP OF 1972, NOR SO THEATRICAL. THE BIG CHANGE IN U.S.

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CHINA POLICY, ENDING OUR LARGELY SELF-INFLICTED ISOLATION FROM PEKING AND OPENING AN IMPLICIT PARTNERSHIP OF CONTAINMENT OF MOSCOW, WAS ENGINEERED BY MR. NIXON. MR. FORD, WITH A PURPOSE MORE THAN JUSTIFYING A TRIP OF HIS OWN, IS CONTINUING THAT POLICY. THE CHIEF INTEREST OF HIS TRIP, NONE- THELESS, WILL LIE IN WHAT MR. FORD CAN DO TO CONVINCE HIS HOSTS THAT THE U.S. REMAINS A RELIABLE COLLABORATOR FOR THE LONG HAUL. GIVEN THE REAGAN PRESSURE, IT IS PROBABLY TOO MUCH TO EXPECT MORE THAN, AT MOST, SOME NEW NUANCES ON THE TAIWAN QUESTION. ONE HOPES THE CHINESE HAVE LEARNED HOW AMERICAN POLITICS RESTRICTS MOVEMENT ON THIS ISSUE. IT NEEDS TO BE TACKLED FIRST BY MORE DEBATE AT HOME, BUT THERE IS A RANGE OF STEPS, MOSTLY AFFECTING TRADE, WHICH MR. FORD COULD TAKE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE U.S. REALIZES THE GREAT IMPORTANCE OF DEEPENING ITS STILL TENUOUS RELATIONSHIP WITH CHINA. (A-14)

JOSEPH KRAFT WRITES THAT BEHIND THE UNEASY TONE OF PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT LIES AN INSTRUCTIVE PARADOX. THE PAST FEW YEARS HAVE REGISTERED FAIR PROGRESS TOWARD THE GOAL OF NORMALIZING SINO-AMERICAN RELATIONS SET BY PRESIDENT NIXON AND PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI IN THE SHANGHAI COMMUNIQUE OF 1972. ONLY NORMALIZATION WITH PEKING TURNS OUT TO BE MORE OF A HEADACHE THAN A TEA PARTY, AND THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS TURN OUT TO BE CHINESE COMMUNISTS, NOT JACK LEMMON AND CARY GRANT. THE HIGH HOPES WHICH HAVE BEEN DASHED, IN OTHER WORDS, RESTED ON AN ILLUSION -- AN ILLUSION FOSTERED IN A UNIQUE, GOLDEN MOMENT. THE GOLDEN MOMENT WAS THE ASCENDANCY OF PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI BETWEEN 1971 AND 1974. HE HAD THE BACKING OF CHAIRMAN MAO, AND THE TURBULENCE OF THE PAST YEARS HAD FLATTENED ALL OTHER POWER CENTERS. THE POINT OF ALL THIS IS NOT TO CONDEMN PEKING. THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS ARE ONLY DOING WHAT COMES NATURALLY. THE PRESENT RELATION WITH WASHINGTON IS NORMAL, AND IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE FOR THE U.S. -- BECAUSE CERTAIN ILLUSIONS HAD BEEN SHATTERED -- TO LOSE PATIENCE AND PUT DOWN THE CHINESE IN A WAY THAT MADE PEKING LOOK MORE KINDLY ON MOSCOW. (A-15)

EVANS AND NOVAK WRITE THAT THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE'S VEILED CHARGE THAT PRESIDENT EISENHOWER PERSONALLY AUTHORIZED THE ASSASSINATION OF THE CONGO'S PATRICK LUMUMBA IN 1960 HAS TRIGGERED A BACKLASH AGAINST THE COMMITTEE, RAISING THE FIRST SERIOUS DOUBT AMONG OUTSIDERS OF ITS OBJECTIVITY. ODDLY, THE BACKLASH DOES NOT COME FROM THE COMMITTEE'S REPUBLICAN MINORITY. RATHER, EISENHOWER'S HIGHEST WHITE HOUSE AIDES BELIEVE HE WAS UNIQUELY SINGLED OUT FOR SPECIAL BLAME ON THE BASIS OF ONE MIDDLE-RANK WITNESS WHOSE TESTIMONY WAS TOTALLY AND FLATLY REPUDIATED BY HIS SUPERIORS. WHETHER PRIVATE RE- CRIMINATIONS FROM EISENHOWER LOYALISTS TO THE DEMOCRATIC-

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CONTROLLED INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE WILL CHANGE THE WORDING OF THE POISONOUS "INTERIM" REPORT WHEN THE COMMITTEE ADOPTS A FINAL REPORT NEXT YEAR IS NOT KNOWN. THE BITTER PROTEST COULD LEAD TO EMOTIONAL DEMANDS FROM REPUBLICANS FOR EVEN-HANDED TREATMENT FOR ALL PRESIDENTS; OR, REPELLED BY THE NOXIOUS ASSASSINATION PUBLICITY ALREADY DAMAGING THIS NATION'S REPUTATION, THE REPUBLICANS COULD DECIDE TO LET THE MATTER DIE. (A-15)

THE BALTIMORE SUN

ERNEST B. PURGURSON COVERS THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH MAO. (A-1)

HAL PIPER WRITES THAT THE 1976 SOVIET GROWTH RATE WILL BE THE LOWEST SINCE 1945. NIKOLAI BAIBAKOV, CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE PLANNING COMMITTEE, SAID INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION WOULD INCREASE IN 1976 BY 4.3 PER CENT. THIS IS LOWER THAN ANY PLAN DRAFTED SINCE WORLD WAR II. BAIBAKOV BLAMED A SHORTAGE OF AGRICULTURAL RAW MATERIALS CAUSED BY THIS YEAR'S HARVEST FAILURE AND A LAG IN OPENING UP NEW INDUSTRIAL PLANTS. (A-1)

ACCORDING TO A REUTER REPORT, JOHN EHRLICHMAN TESTIFIED YESTERDAY THAT FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON ORDERED RECORDS OF HIS WIRETAPPING OF 17 REPORTERS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO BE DESTROYED TO KEEP THE LATE J. EDGAR HOOVER FROM BLACKMAILING HIM. (A-6)

MATTHEW SEIDEN WRITES THAT MOST CHINESE HAVE LITTLE APPARENT CONCERN FOR THE UNCERTAIN FUTURE OF SINO-AMERICAN RELATIONS. ALTHOUGH THE STORY OF THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT DOMINATED THE FRONT PAGE OF THE PEOPLES DAILY YESTERDAY, AND MOST PEOPLE QUESTIONED SAID THEY KNEW OF MR. FORD'S PRESENCE, FEW WERE WILLING TO DISCUSS IT WITH AN AMERICAN NEWSMAN. (A-8)

HENRY TREWHITT REPORTS THAT THE U.S. REJECTED YESTERDAY A PROPOSAL BY THE SOVIET UNION TO REOPEN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE ON THE MIDDLE EAST WITH THE PLO SITTING IN. (A-10) AN EDITORIAL OBSERVED THAT THE ACCESSION OF KING JUAN CARLOS I GAVE THE SPANISH REGIME A FRESH START IN RESPECTABILITY IN THE EYES OF ITS NEIGHBORS. THE SYMBOLIC ISOLATION IMPOSED ON SPAIN BY THE VICTORS OF WORLD WAR II, LONG UNDERMINED, IS OVER. THIS WILL HELP JUAN CARLOS, BUT IN THE END IT IS THE SPANISH BODY POLITICAL THAT WILL DECIDE HIS LEGITIMACY AND DURATION. (A-16)

MARY MCGORRY DECRIES THE PRESIDENT'S ACTIONS REGARDING NEW

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YORK CITY AND CONTRASTS IT WITH THE ADMINISTRATIONS' LACK OF CONCERN WITH FISCAL IRRESPONSIBILITY AT THE PENTAGON, (A-17)

THE NEW YORK TIMES

CHRISTOPHER WREN REPORTS FROM MOSCOW THE SOVIET DISCLOSURE YESTERDAY THAT THE POOR GRAIN HARVEST THIS YEAR HAD FORCED THE KREMLIN TO SCALE DOWN ECONOMIC GOALS FOR 1976. IT WAS ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT THE SOVIET UNION'S PUBLISHED DEFENSE BUDGET WOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED NEXT YEAR COMPARED WITH 1975. (1)

IN TERENCE SMITH'S OPINION, RARELY HAVE ISRAELIS FELT MORE FRUSTRATED AND ALONE. THE DECISION OF THE UNSC ON SUNDAY TO INVITE THE PALESTINIANS TO PARTICIPATE IN A FULL-DEBATE MIDDLE EAST DEBATE NEXT MONTH -- AND THE AMERICAN DECISION NOT TO VETO THE RESOLUTION -- DEEPENED THE ISRAELI FEELING OF POLITICAL ISOLATION MORE THAN ANY EVENT IN RECENT MEMORY. WHAT MOST FRUSTRATED THE ISRAELIS, JUDGING FROM A NUMBER OF CONVERSATIONS YESTERDAY, WAS NOT SO MUCH THAT THE U.S. DID NOT AGREE WITH ISRAEL'S INTERPRETATION OF THE SYRIAN MOVE, AS THE FACT THAT ISRAEL WAS POWERLESS TO AFFECT THE OUTCOME OF THE DEBATE. (2)

A SPECIAL TO THE TIMES FROM MANILA REPORTS THAT FOREIGN SECRETARY CARLOS ROMULO, WHO IS SPEARHEADING AN EFFORT TO REVIEW THE UN CHARTER, SAID YESTERDAY THAT AMERICANS MUST REALIZE "THEY CAN NO LONGER RUN THE UN AS THEY USED TO." WHAT EXISTS IN THE UN NOW, MR. ROMULO SAID, IS "A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN A MAJORITY THAT HAS THE VOTES, AND A MINORITY THAT HAS THE REAL POWER AND WEALTH." (4)

PAUL HOFMANN WRITES THAT ISRAEL TOLD THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY YESTERDAY IT WAS PREPARED TO ENTER INTO NEW NEGOTIATIONS ON THE MIDDLE EAST "AT ANY MOMENT WITHOUT ANY PRECONDITIONS WHATSOEVER." WHEN MR. HERZOG WAS ASKED LAST NIGHT TO ELABORATE ON HIS ADDRESS, HE DECLARED THAT IT REFLECTED NO SHIFT IN ISRAEL'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE PLO. (5)

ACCORDING TO BERNARD GWERTZMAN, DANIEL HOYNIHAN SAID YESTERDAY THAT IT WAS UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT A WHOLESALE RELAXATION OF TENSIONS WITH THE USSR. "ANY LESSENER EXPENDITURE OF ENERGY ON MILITARY TECHNOLOGY WILL LEAD TO AN INCREASED EXPENDITURE ON WHAT THE COMMUNISTS WILL SEE AS THE EQUALLY INVITING, EQUALLY PRODUCTIVE AREA OF IDEOLOGICAL CONFLICT," HE SAID. (10)

PETER HAWTHORNE REPORTS THAT SOUTH AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT IN

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THE CIVIL WAR IN NEIGHBORING ANGOLA IS BEING MADE INCREASINGLY CLEAR IN OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL STATEMENTS, AND THAT SITUATION HAS BECOME A FOCUS OF NATIONAL DISCUSSION. PRIME MINISTER JOHN VORSTER IS SAYING THAT THE VAST FORMER PORTUGUESE TERRITORY COULD BECOME A MAJOR CRISIS FOR SOUTH AFRICA UNLESS THE WESTERN POWERS WERE PREPARED TO AID IN DEFUSING IT QUICKLY. THE OFFICIAL STATEMENTS, AS WELL AS AUTHORITATIVE LEAKS, ARE CLEARLY AIMED AT TRYING TO PERSUADE THE WESTERN WORLD, PARTICULARLY THE U.S., TO FORCE THE SOVIET UNION TO BACK DOWN. (11)

A SPECIAL TO THE TIMES FROM MADRID SAYS SPAIN IS REPORTED TO HAVE BEGUN A MILITARY WITHDRAWAL FROM THE SPANISH SAHARA TERRITORY IN AN EFFORT TO AVOID INVOLVEMENT IN POSSIBLE FIGHTING BETWEEN MOROCCAN TROOPS AND ALGERIAN-BACKED FORCES. THE ALGERIAN ANGER AGAINST SPAIN HAS NOW TAKEN THE FORM OF THREATS OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS. BUSINESS INTERESTS IN SPAIN ARE SENSITIVE TO THE DANGERS OF AN ECONOMIC BOYCOTT BY ALGERIA BECAUSE OF THE SAHARA PROBLEM, BUT WHAT IS REFERRED TO AS THE "MOROCCAN LOBBY" HAS WON OUT FOR THE MOMENT. (12)

ACCORDING TO MARVINE HONE, PRESIDENT FRANCISCO DA COSTA GOMES LIFTED THE STATE OF SIEGE IN THE LISBON MILITARY REGION YESTERDAY AFTER IT WAS CLEAR THAT AN ATTEMPTED LEFTIST COUP HAD BEEN SMASHED. (17)

IN A LENGTHY ARTICLE, JOHN FINNEY DISCUSSES THE BUREAUCRATIC DEBATE OVER WHETHER THE BACKFIRE BOMBER AND CRUISE MISSILES SHOULD BE COUNTED AS STRATEGIC VEHICLES IN SALT NEGOTIATIONS. WITH THE DEPARTURE OF MR. SCHLESINGER THERE MAY BE SOME LATITUDE FOR MOVEMENT AND COMPROMISE ON THE ISSUES WITHIN THE ADMINISTRATION. AT LEAST THAT IS THE HOPE OF MR. KISSINGER'S VIEW, IS WHETHER DONALD RUMSFELD, WHOSE VIEWS ARE NOT KNOWN, CAN AND WILL TURN AROUND THE PENTAGON'S POSITION BEFORE HE BECOMES LOCKED IN BY THE VIEWS OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF. AT THE SAME TIME, MR. KISSINGER IS HOPING FOR A MORE POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM THE SOVIET UNION THAN ITS REJECTION OF A PROPOSAL IN SEPTEMBER PERMITTING A CERTAIN NUMBER OF BACKFIRE BOMBERS OVER THE 2,400 CEILING IN RETURN FOR A CORRESPONDING NUMBER OF AMERICAN PLANES CARRYING CRUISE MISSILES. (18)

DAVID BINDER REPORTS AMBASSADOR ELLSWORTH BUNKER'S STATEMENT YESTERDAY THAT THE U.S. WOULD RETAIN "PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY" FOR THE OPERATION AND DEFENSE OF THE PANAMA CANAL FOR THE LIFETIME OF THE NEW TREATY IT IS NEGOTIATING WITH THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT. MR. BUNKER SAID THAT PANAMA HAD

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AGREED "IN PRINCIPLE" TO THIS FORMULA. HOWEVER, NO AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED ON THE DURATION OF THE NEW TREATY. (20)

IN ITS LEAD EDITORIAL, THE TIMES ARGUES THAT THE FIRST AMERICAN PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO PEKING IN THREE AND A HALF YEARS NATURALLY HAS OPENED WITH A DISCUSSION OF THE COUNTRY THAT, INADVERTENTLY, BROUGHT THE U.S. AND COMMUNIST CHINA TOGETHER IN THE FIRST PLACE -- THE SOVIET UNION. BUT THE CURRENT MEETING HAS AN INESCAPABLE TRANSITIONAL CHARACTER. WASHINGTON, PEKING, AND MOSCOW ARE ALL EXPERIENCING SUCCESSION CRISES. NONE OF THE THREE CAN BE SURE WHO WILL BE IN CHARGE A YEAR OR TWO FROM NOW. NO ONE CAN BE CERTAIN THAT THE BITTER SINO-SOVIET FEUD, WHICH GIVES THE TRIANGULAR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE U.S. ITS SPECIAL CHARACTER, WILL CONTINUE AFTER THE MAO AND BREZHNEV SUCCESSIONS. ALTHOUGH IT APPEARS TO BE LONG-LASTING. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, APART FROM PHILOSOPHIC EXCHANGES, SHORT-TERM MATTERS UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE IN PRESIDENT FORD'S CHINA VISIT. DISAGREEMENT ABOUT UN ACTION ON KOREA AND THE VOCAL SUPPORT OF CHINA FOR THE NORTH AND THE U.S. FOR THE SOUTH ARE UNLIKELY TO CONCEAL THE FIRM INTENTION OF BOTH WASHINGTON AND PEKING TO RESTRAIN THEIR CLIENTS, AND TO AVOID ANY POSSIBILITY OF AN ARMED CLASH. THE TAIWAN ISSUE REMAINS ON THE SHELF, AS IT HAS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW CHINESE-AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP. TRADE COULD EXPAND MORE RAPIDLY BUT IS IMPEDED MORE BY CHINA'S EMPHASIS ON SELF-RELIANCE AND LIMITED ABILITY TO PAY WITH EXPORTS THAN BY POLITICAL FACTORS. BUT ALL THESE MATTERS ARE SECONDARY TO THE TRIANGULAR BALANCE OF POWER THAT CONTINUES IN CHINESE-AMERICAN-SOVIET RELATIONS. WHILE THE TRIANGLE MAY NOT BE ETERNAL -- AND DEPENDS ON THE OUTCOME OF SUCCESSION CRISES IN EACH OF THE THREE CAPITALS -- THE FORD VISIT TO PEKING IS INTENDED BY BOTH SIDES TO LET THE WORLD KNOW THAT THE TRANSITIONAL AMERICAN AND CHINESE GOVERNMENTS HAVE NO BASIC CHANGES IN MIND IN THE POLICY OF RAPPROACHMENT THEY INITIATED IN 1971-72. (40)

IN ANOTHER EDITORIAL THE TIMES CONTENDS THAT BY CHOOSING THIS MOMENT TO AUTHORIZE ESTABLISHMENT OF SEVERAL MORE SETTLEMENTS IN OCCUPIED SYRIAN TERRITORY, ISRAEL'S COALITION LEADERSHIP HAS TAKEN A STEP THAT CAN ONLY COMPOUND THE COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS IN THE MONTHS AHEAD. WITH 55 SETTLEMENTS ALREADY IN PLACE AND DOZENS MORE CONTEMPLATED, THIS PRACTICE IS COMING TO RESEMBLE DELIBERATE TERRITORIAL EXPANSIONISM. INSTEAD OF HELPING DEFEND CEASE-FIRE LINES, CIVILIAN SETTLEMENTS ONLY CREATE NEW POSITIONS WHICH HAVE TO BE DEFENDED. THAT IMPORTANT SEGMENTS OF ISRAELI PUBLIC OPINION ARE NOT IN FAVOR OF SO RIGID A STANCE AS THE GOVERNMENT IS TAKING,

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AT LEAST ON THE NEGOTIATION ISSUE, IS INDICATED BY THE REPORTED OPPOSITION OF FIVE CABINET-MINISTERS, ALONG WITH OTHER INFLUENTIAL PUBLIC FIGURES INSIDE ISRAEL, TO THE GOVERNMENT'S DETERMINATION TO BOYCOTT THE COMING SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE BECAUSE THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION WILL PARTICIPATE IN IT. BUT AT THE TOP, THE COUNTRY'S POLITICAL LEADERS HAVE STILL NOT SUMMONED UP THE SELF-CONFIDENCE TO PRESENT CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSALS FOR ADDRESSING THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION SQUARELY. (46)

IN HIS COLUMN, JAMES RESTON SAYS THAT THE MOST HOPEFUL SIGN IN THE POLITICAL WORLD THESE DAYS IS THAT THE COMMUNIQUEES FROM ALL FRONTS ARE SO MODEST. ALMOST EVERYBODY IS PEEING DOWN. PRICES, UNEMPLOYMENT, INFLATION, AND INTEREST RATES MAY BE UP, BUT BIG POLITICAL PROMISES AND DREAMS ARE OUT OF STYLE. THE NEWS AND TELEVISION SHOWS OF PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT TO CHINA THIS WEEK ILLUSTRATE THE CHANGE. ON THE WHOLE THIS IS NOT A BAD THING. IT USED TO BE EXPECTED THAT SPECTACULAR MEETINGS OF THIS SORT BETWEEN LEADERS ACROSS THE WORLD HAD TO "SETTLE THINGS" OR THEIR RELATIONS WOULD BE WORSE, MAYBE EVEN DANGEROUS. IN THE AGE OF TELEVISION, NOBODY CONFUSES POLICY WITH PROPAGANDA THE WAY THEY USED TO DO IN THE DAYS OF NEVILLE CHAMBERLAIN. WORLD LEADERS CAN MEET ONE ANOTHER NOW FOR THEIR OWN INTERNAL

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TO GENERAL SCOMCROFT

UNCLAS DELIVER AT OPENING OF BUSINESS WH08302

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FINAL OF TWO PARTS

POLITICAL REASONS WITHOUT THEIR PEOPLE EXPECTING VERY MUCH, BECAUSE THERE ISN'T MUCH TO EXPECT. MAYBE THIS DOUBT AND MODESTY ON ALL SIDES IN ALL NATIONS IS NOT A BAD THING, FOR THEY ALL HAVE REASON TO BE MODEST. FACED WITH THE HARD INTRACTABLE FACTS, THEIR AMBIGUOUS THEORIES AND IDEOLOGIES HAVE NOT BEEN WORKING, SO THEY ARE BEGINNING TO PROMISE LESS AND CLAIM LESS, AND THIS MAY ADD TO THE GENERAL CONFUSION OF LIFE, BUT MAY ALSO HELP BRING US DOWN TO REALITY. (41)

C. L. SULZBERGER DISCUSSES THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION IN BRAZIL AND SAYS THAT THE GOVERNMENT FINDS AS IT EDGES TOWARD THE IDEA OF DEMOCRACY THAT, ALTHOUGH IT IS USEFUL ECONOMICALLY, SOCIALLY, AND POLITICALLY, IT BRINGS ITS OWN DIFFICULTIES ALONG BECAUSE IT OBVIOUSLY UNDERMINES DISCIPLINE AND AUTHORITY. THE GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO BOOST POLITICAL LIFE TO THE LEVEL OF ECONOMIC ADVANCES BECAUSE IT SEES THE DANGER OF SCHIZOPHRENIA IF BRAZIL MOVES FORWARD ON SOME FRONTS AND BACKWARD ON OTHERS. THIS IS GENERAL GEISEL'S DILEMMA. HE KNOWS A FROZEN SOCIETY IS STATIC AND ALL BRAZILIANS WANT TO BE DYNAMIC, MOVING AHEAD. THE PRESIDENT TRIES TO MANEUVER OUT OF THE IMPASSE BY SHORT-TERM AND TACTICAL ALLIANCES ON DIFFERENT ISSUES WITH DIFFERENT GROUPS AND FOR DIFFERENT OBJECTIVES, BUT IN THE LONG TERM WHERE WILL HE GO? SULZBERGER WOULD NOT BE FLABBERGASTED IF GEISEL IS SUCCEEDED IN 1979 BY ANOTHER GENERAL. (41)
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